



Summer By the Sea

8:45 a.m. + July 2, 2023

The treasure lies in what you may consider a most unlikely field – yourself.
It takes most of us a long time and we have many obstacles to overcome
before we begin to recognize the field where treasure is hidden,
that is, before we learn to find and accept ourselves, where God is.
Gerard W. Hughes, God of Surprises

Opening Song

“I Am Here”

*Before creation's dawn, there was darkness filled with love.
Love that called forth all existence into life.
Love that spoke into the dark. 'Till the darkness blazed with light.
Love that filled all of creation with a song.*

*I am here like a treasure hidden deep within this world.
Every river, every mountain points the way.
I am here in creation: in the darkness, in the light.
Come and find me, come and know me,
Come and love.*

Sitting with a Prayer

Nan Merrill, inspired by Psalm 49

*Be not afraid to discover the Treasure within,
to seek the gold hidden in the garden of your heart.*

*For inasmuch as you root out each fear,
will truth and peace and joy become your riches.*

*You will live in the realm of Love becoming a light,
a beneficial presence in the world.*

*Future generations will be blessed,
the bonds of ignorance broken forever.*

*O Spirit of Truth, You are our strength
and our guiding light.*

*Lead us, O Love, to the eternal Treasure,
the Heart of all hearts.*

Reprise

"I Am Here"

*I am here like a treasure hidden deep within this world.
Every river, every mountain points the way.
I am here in creation: in the darkness, in the light.
Come and find me, come and know me,
Come and love.*

Entering the Stories by the Sea

Matthew 13:44-49,50-52

Jesus says,

*"The Realm of the Heavens is like treasure hidden in the field, which a Human found and hid.
And from his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

*Again, the Realm of the Heavens is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls and,
on finding one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

*Again, the Realm of the Heavens is like a net cast into sea and gathered fish of every kind.
When it was full, they drew it up on the shore and they sat down and gathered the beautiful ones into
reservoirs but the rotten ones they cast away....*

*Have you brought all these things together in your mind?" They said to him, "Yes."
And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the Realm of the Heavens
is like a House-Master who casts out of his treasury new things and old.*

Meditation

Song of Response

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you,
I want to see you.*

*To see your presence all around,
Shining in the heart of creation.
Unveil your power and love,
And let my heart see your salvation.*

Listening Deeper

"To Find the Pearl"

*To find the pearl beyond compare,
O dig right here, deep in your soul.*

Resting in the Silence

During these 5 minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. Simply be here now. Descend into this Silence. There is nothing you need to do. Just relax. Sense your body. Breathe more deeply than usual. It can help to focus on the region of the heart. You might use a breath prayer to help you descend into this silence at the level of the heart, such as "You" (inhale), "are here" (exhale), or use a sacred word (such as Love, Peace, Beloved, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit).

Treasure All Around

*With beauty behind me I walk.
With beauty before me I walk.
Today as I wander, I journey in goodness.
Seeking out beauty I walk.
With beauty below me I walk.
With beauty above me I walk.
Today as I travel a trail of contentment,
With calm assurance I walk.
That all may be beauty I walk.*

"I Walk" based on a Navajo/Diné Prayer

Communion

Communion Song

*Be thou my vision of Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word.
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou and thou only first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Great God of heaven my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, Oh bright heaven's sun.
Heart of my own heart whatever befall,
Still be my vision, oh Ruler of all.*

"Be Thou My Vision"

Receiving a Good Word



“Saints & Pilgrims: A Pilgrimage along the Coast of East England”

October 16-27, 2023

Journey in the footsteps of medieval British saints and pilgrims along the eastern coast of England. There are three primary anchor pilgrimage sites and saints: Julian of Norwich, Hilda of Whitby, and Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. Along the way we will also visit the Shrine of Our Lady in the town of Walsingham (which was a major pilgrimage site in the medieval period); Rievaulx Abbey, home of St. Aelred; and Durham Cathedral. We conclude our pilgrimage in Edinburgh. This contemplative pilgrimage will be an opportunity to deepen your spirituality through exploring the literary texts as well as the historical contexts of these great British saints of medieval Christianity. To reserve a spot please see Michael or Peter for a Registration Form, the deposit is \$300. For more information go to www.thecenterfcs.org/pilgrimage.

Our Staff

Haley Brown – Ministry Assistant & Director of gastrochurch
Peter Johns – Associate Director

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Michael Sciretti, Jr. – Pastor of The Center

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.

If you are worshipping online, please text the word center to (844) 474-0707

If you are worshipping in person, please text the word chapel to (844) 474-0707

For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit: www.TheCenterFCS.org.